

HEALTH

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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T S
OF THE
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
AND
S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R
FOR THE YEAR

1944.

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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
on the Public Health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st
December, 1944.

The report conforms as closely as possible with
the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Health circulars 10/44 of
the 15th February 1944 and 49/45 of the 19th March, 1945.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	11242 acres.
Number of inhabited houses. ...	2995.
Ratcable value.	£95,438.
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£391. 3. 6d.
Population	9,500.

Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births { Legitimate	128	73	55
{ Illegitimate	10	3	7

Birth rate per 1,000 of the
estimated resident population = 14.52

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Still Births { Legitimate	4	2	2
{ Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate of still births per 1,000
total (live and still) births = 28.17

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths	169	78	91

Death rate per 1,000 of the
estimated resident population = 17.79

Deaths from puerperal causes = Nil

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age			
{ Legitimate	7	4	3
{ Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of all infants per
1,000 live births = 50.72

Death rate of legitimate
infants per 1,000 live births = 54.68

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	Nil

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Council Officials:

Health Department.

Medical Officer: E. L. Perry, D.S.O., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector: Stanley T. Chard, A.R.S.I.

Nursing Services:

Queen's Nurse: Miss E. Salaman, S.R.N.
District Nurses: Miss L. Pocock, S.R.N., S.C.N.
Miss N. D. Smith, C.M.B.

(b) (i) Laboratory Facilities. These are provided by the Devon County Council Laboratory.

(ii) Ambulance Facilities. There is an excellent and adequate ambulance service provided by the Sidmouth Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, which possesses a motor ambulance.

(iii) Nursing in the Home, Clinic and Hospitals. The Queen's Nurse and District Nurses attend to cases requiring nursing in their own homes. These nurses also attend the Child Welfare Clinics and provide ante-natal services.

The up-to-date local hospital, the Victoria Cottage Hospital, provides facilities for every type of case requiring hospital treatment. It is affiliated to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Infectious cases are by arrangement with the City of Exeter admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(iv) Maternity. During recent years pressure on housing accommodation and social changes which are taking place make it increasingly difficult for maternity cases to be confined in their own homes. This applies to all classes of the residential and visiting population. It has been during the year under report a great advantage in this respect that the Devon County Council have maintained a temporary maternity home, first in Long Orchard and later at The Grove, two houses suitable for the purpose.

The Victoria Cottage Hospital provides four maternity beds, but the presence of these in a cottage hospital which has a total of twenty-seven beds is open to question. From time to time there must be septic surgical cases in the general beds of the hospital.

The provision of a permanent maternity home in Sidmouth itself is badly needed. Sidmouth as a health resort has always attracted a high class of medical practitioner and it seems anomalous where such medical skill is available that maternity cases should be sent outside the town.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water. The water supply has been adequately chlorinated throughout the year with satisfactory results.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage. No alteration to report.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No alteration to report.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The arrangements for cleansing provided under the A.R.P. authorities at the depot where the disinfecter is housed have proved very useful for dealing with troops from time to time who have been camped in the neighbourhood. The disinfecter is shortly to be moved from its present position and it is proposed that at its new site a certain number of showers shall be provided.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular statement.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular report.

(v) Camping Sites.

(a) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1944 was 2.

(b) The number of licences in respect of camping sites issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 was 2.

(c) The number of campers resident in the area during 1944 was 3.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action has arisen.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been taken.

4. Schools.

No change to report.

SECTION D. Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.
Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during 1944 (Excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	28	17	-
Diphtheria	11	9	-
Measles	3	1	-
Paratyphoid fever	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	14	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Chicken Pox	3	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Mortality, 1944.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Not known	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX IIStatistics provided by the Registrar-General.

Total deaths in 1944 - 169

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	-
9. Influenza	2	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	-
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	4
15. Cancer of breast	-	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	7	9
17. Diabetes	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	10	20
19. Heart diseases	19	25
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	3	8
21. Bronchitis	2	-
22. Pneumonia	2	2
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	2
26. Appendicitis	1	-
27. Other digestive diseases	2	2
28. Nephritis	1	1
31. Premature birth	-	3
32. Congenital debility	2	1
33. Suicide	3	1
34. Road traffic accidents	-	1
35. Other violent causes	2	1
36. All other causes	11	4
	<u>78</u>	<u>91</u>

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

E. L. PERRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1944.

TABLE I.
VISITS, INTERVIEWS, ETC.

<u>GENERAL SANITATION.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>
Water supply	41
Drainage	148
Tents, vans and sheds	11
Factories	15
Accumulations and deposits	10
Rats and mice	190
Dustbins	2
Animals improperly kept	7
Interviews and appointments	59
Miscellaneous	29
<u>INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</u>	
Enquiries in cases of I.D.	29
Visits re disinfection	29
Visits (other diseases)	27
<u>COWSHEDS, MILK SHOPS & DAIRIES.</u>	
Visits to cowsheds	130
Visits to dairies & milk shops	46
<u>FOOD SHOPS & SLAUGHTERHOUSES.</u>	
Visits to food shops	27
Visits to slaughterhouses	Nil
<u>HOUSING.</u>	
Visits under Housing & Public Health Acts	31
Visits re verminous premises	27
Miscellaneous housing visits (including change of tenancy of Council Houses)	25

TABLE II.

Complaints received	60
Nuisances abated	47
<u>NOTICES SERVED.</u>	
Statutory Notices served	Nil
Statutory Notices complied with	Nil
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>	
No. of complete new house drainage systems	1
No. of house drainage systems repaired, relaid or extended	34
No. of new W.C.s.	13
	4

DISINFECTION.

No. of premises disinfected after I.D.	18
No. of premises disinfected after T.B.	5
No. of premises disinfected after other diseases	14
Bedding or clothing disinfected in steam disinfector after I.D.	9
Bedding or clothing disinfected by steam disinfector after T.B.	5
Bedding or clothing disinfected by steam disinfector after other diseases	144
Bedding or clothing destroyed (lots)	5

UNSGOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered for either destruction or salvage.

Meat & meat products -	45 tins
	12 lbs. sausages
	14 lbs. suet
	698 lbs. pork
	100 lbs. goose
Fruit & Vegetable products-	104 tins
	43 lbs. oranges
	240 lbs. haricot beans
	24 lbs. rice
	30 lbs. lentils
	25 lbs. apricots
Fish & fish products	83 tins
	3 cwt salt cod
Milk	45 tins

Also: 149 lbs. sugar
12 lbs. flour

MILK SAMPLES.

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	101
No. of samples passed methylene blue test	68
No. of samples taken for tuberculosis	29
No. of samples found to be POSITIVE	2
No. of samples found to be NEGATIVE	27

HOUSING SUMMARY.

	<u>Demolished.</u>	<u>Closed.</u>	<u>Reconditioned.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Houses dealt with previous to this year.	62	10	61	133
Houses dealt with during 1944.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clearance areas.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual houses.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Houses reconditioned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	62	10	61	133